GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1304
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Drug Exports
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India leads in the field of drug exports and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the quantum of drugs exported from the country during the last three years and the current year;
(c) whether the drug exports from India to the United States rose 23.4% during the said period which is ahead of China"s medicine export and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether India is considered internationally as the home of the safest drugs and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) : India exports generic pharmaceuticals and also traditional medicines. Among the generic pharmaceutical exports, India is considered a leading exporter and has 2nd position in export of generic drugs in terms of volumes. The latest data of UN comtrade is given below for the top four exporting countries for the year 2014:
(In Metric Tons)
Rank Country Year 2012 Year 2013 Year 2014
1 Germany 623728 642790 640107
2 India 353548 421500 420341
3 France 342299 358682 360647
4 China 286662 324813 349940
(Source: UN Comtrade − figures are for Jan-Dec)

(b) : The quantum of Drugs exported by India during the last three years and the current year are as under :.
2013_14 2014_15 2015_16 2016_17(APR to MAY)
Commodity QTY(ton) QTY(ton) QTY(ton) QTY(ton)
AYUSH AND HERBAL PRODUCTS 76720.12 92059.22 95066.47 15916.94
BULK DRUGS, DRUG INTERMEDIATES 305675.88 368351.90 351530.13 58883.51
DRUG FORMULATIONS, BIOLOGICALS 353762.21 414637.06 375335.27 69190.54
Total 736158.20 875048.17 821931.87 143990.99
(Source DGCI&S)

(c) : Imports of Finished dosage Pharmaceuticals by USA for the last 3 years, as available in US Government website is given below.
Imports of Finished dosage Pharmaceuticals of USA from their Government web site in USDmn
Rank Country Fy-13 Fy-14 Fy-15 Gr% Contbn
1 Ireland 18585.71 20621.96 24680.10 19.68 22.79
2 Germany 11414.04 14331.89 14983.59 4.55 13.83
3 Switzerland 9310.94 10469.06 10260.06 -2.00 9.47
4 United Kingdom 4611.01 5196.54 9927.60 91.04 9.17
5 India 5112.65 5463.68 6619.03 21.15 6.11
6 Israel 5596.74 4551.78 6080.80 33.59 5.61
7 Canada 3715.98 4458.23 5306.12 19.02 4.90
8 Belgium 3408.19 4714.11 4592.82 -2.57 4.24
9 Italy 2702.87 2721.25 3631.34 33.44 3.35
10 Denmark 2829.39 3254.40 3547.68 9.01 3.28
11 Singapore 3398.87 2464.47 3217.29 30.55 2.97
12 France 2929.58 2716.33 3053.56 12.41 2.82
13 China 1716.51 1831.25 2072.03 13.15 1.91
World Total 83956.29 91924.90 108305.98 17.82 100.00
(Source: Website of US Government − figures pertain to Oct − Sep of Fy 2013, Fy 2014 and Fy 2015).
It may be observed from the above table that India exported finished dosage pharmaceuticals worth USD 6619.03 mn during 2014-15 to USA and at the same time China exported products worth USD 2072.03 mn, which indicates that India's exports to US are ahead of China.

India's position in Global exports of finished formulations for 3 years is 11th while China's position is 18th as indicated below :
Global Exports of Finished dosage Forms in USD mn
Rank Country Year 2012 Year 2013 Year 2014
11 India 9532 11596 11507

18 China 4585 4841 5180
(Source UN Comtrade)
It may be noted that during 2015-16, India's exports to US have grown by 27.8%.

(d) : India is considered as Pharmacy of the world for supply of generic medicines, as India exports generic version of drugs for almost all therapies and caters to over 200 countries across the globe. Quality wise also India is considered to be reliable supplier of quality drugs, which is evident from the fact that Indian manufacturing units have approvals from the international regulatory agencies of countries like USA, EU, South Africa and Japan.
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